

'CONTRARY TO STATE POLICY'

State Board Cool To 'Segregation' Transfers

LANSING — The State Board of Education affirmed yesterday that requests for property transfers that create more segregation "will be looked upon as contrary to state policy."

The board resolution came on request from the Benton Harbor school district where virtually all-white West Fairplain is attempting to transfer to virtually all-white St. Joseph.

In another matter, the board ordered Coloma to pay Benton Harbor \$40,000 for Eaman school buildings and land by June 30 or else Benton Harbor can retain the property.

The State board last year transferred most of the former

Eaman district to Coloma and ruled that Coloma should pay \$40,000 for 4.6 acres and two buildings. Coloma has not paid the price and Benton Harbor has continued to use the school although it is surrounded by Coloma school district.

Coloma Supt. William Barrett has criticized the price as too high.

The resolution on transfers and segregation was a restatement of 1966 board policy. It states the policy is subject to review of the attorney general.

The West Fairplain petition is now at the county Intermediate board level. The Intermediate board last night scheduled a public hearing March 17. The St. Joseph board

of education went on record last month opposing the transfer.

Petitions are being circulated in Sodus township for transfer out of Benton Harbor to Eau Claire school district. This would involve an integrated area going into an integrated district.

Transfer attempts also are being discussed in the Higman Park-North Shore area to leave Benton Harbor and go to St. Joseph.

The 1966 policy as restated by the board yesterday said: "Any requests for property transfers that show evidence of

significantly militating against the integration of a school district and/or move in the direction of greater segregation will be looked up as contrary to state policy subject to the review of the attorney general."

The Benton Harbor district is now 53.8 per cent black — a percentage that would be increased with transfer of West Fairplain.

Benton Harbor Supt. Mark Lewis attended the State board meeting along with board members Thomas Alford and Mrs. Dorothy Blakeslee. Lewis stated the Benton Harbor board's position as opposing fragmentation of the district.



DUCKS GET MORE HELP: Mrs. Winifred Bills, a blind Paw Paw woman who appealed via this newspaper for help in feeding ducks near her home in the wintertime, is getting it. Three men from Tri-County Sportmen's League, Ann Arbor, gave her \$100 this week. League draws members from Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe counties, according to members Edwin Arnbruster, George Helzerman and Lawrence Stein shown making the presentation to Mrs. Bills. Mrs. Bills, a widow, has also received cash through mail from Southwestern Michigan and has been given at least 500 pounds of shelled corn for the ducks by the Paw Paw Conservation club. The dog in the picture is Mrs. Bills' guide dog Prince. (Staff photo)

'WITHIN LAW', FORD SAYS Election Gifts Top Report By \$11,500

By JAMES R. POLK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford failed to report \$11,500 in campaign contributions last fall from stock brokers, an oilman, bankers, doctos and a union group. Instead, the checks given to Ford were detoured through Republican headquarters here while roughly the same amount — \$12,233 — was being fed back to Ford's district to pay off post-election debts.

Through this two-step procedure, names of the special interest groups were not listed on Ford's sworn campaign report to Congress, although the money flowed through his hands.

DISCLOSURE REQUIRED

The Corrupt Practices Act requires full public disclosure of all campaign contributions received with a candidate's knowledge or consent.

In an interview, Ford denied his procedures in handling campaign checks as being "within the law."

The Michigan congressman said he signed the checks over to the GOP because he had reached his state's legal limit on the money his own campaign committee could handle. He said he had no knowledge of the GOP giving back more than \$12,000 to other Ford committee.

Not listed on Ford's report to

the House were:

— a \$5,000 check from the Securities Industry Campaign Committee. The endorsement on the check shows it was signed over to the GOP headquarters before the post-election payout began. The \$5,000 donation to Ford was the largest single contribution made by the Wall Street stock brokers' fund.

— a \$2,000 check from the Bankers Political Action Com-

mittee, whose money was refused by nearly half the intended recipients in a controversy over a pending bill on bank regulation.

— a \$3,000 check from John M. Shaheen, head of New York City oil firm with refineries in Canada, California and Arkansas.

— a \$1,000 check from the po-

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 4)

Milliken Budget Asks 1% Boost In Income Tax

LANSING (AP) — Proposing the lowest state spending hike in five years, Gov. William Milliken outlined today a \$1.97 billion General Fund budget with a 1 per cent income tax increase beginning next Jan. 1.

The proposals, reflecting a cautious optimism over prospects for an improved economy, marked a \$225 million or 12.8 per cent increase over the current fiscal year spending. That compares with an average 13.2 per cent spending increase over the last five years.

Milliken coupled his request for a deferred tax increase with a proposal to restore to individuals the property and city tax credits taken away for the past year. Corporations would not win back such credits.

REVENUE SHARING

He also proposed a new revenue-sharing formula under which cities and villages would get a greater share of state money.

The governor renewed pleas for lawmakers to balance the 1970-71 budget through \$110 million in spending cuts and fund switches. He said his new recommendations "assumed" legislative ratification of his unprecedented call for slashes in the pay hikes proposed for the 47,000 state classified workers by the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

Milliken asked that the proposed 8.1 per cent pay hike be cut to 6.5 per cent.

Milliken's budget proposals

which provide for an \$11.7 million surplus on June 30, 1972 — earmark half the total general fund spending, some \$975 million, for kindergarten and up to the local quarry and warmed up a 20-ton bulldozer.

Three minutes later, the old sedan the boy had bought for \$9.60 was a heap of mangled metal. Father, a 55-year-old quarry worker, had bulldozed the car flat and pushed it into the pit.

"It was the best thing I could ever have done," he said.

The story came out Wednesday in Juvenile Court, where the youth was fined \$38.40 for six motoring offenses, including driving while under age. Names were withheld under court rules.

into public schools as a result of the November parochial defeat. The governor also assumes the Michigan Supreme Court, now reviewing questions on state aid to private schools, will not invalidate the election results.

In addition, Milliken proposed an enrollment limitation at the eight major state colleges and universities, a halt to state payment for police and fire services at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and special attention to community colleges to boost their enrollment.

Milliken called welfare "the fastest growing element in Michigan's budget" and proposed a \$468 million program — up from the \$344 million being appropriated this fiscal year.

Budget Director Glenn S. Allen Jr. said, however, that an additional \$50 million must be earmarked for welfare this year because of the General Motors strike.

HOPES FOR RECOVERY

Milliken said the January effective date for the income tax increase was aimed at promoting recovery from the economic slump engendered by that strike and a soft national economy.

"Any tax increase starting in 1971 would cut employee take-home pay and reduce consumer spending," Allen explained. "A corporate tax increase starting this year would affect job opportunities at a time when corporations are just beginning to recover."

Thus the governor wants a 1 per cent increase in the personal income tax, from 2.6 per cent to 3.6 per cent, to begin Jan. 1, 1972. He called for a 2.2 per cent hike in the corporate income tax, from 5.6 per cent to 7.8 per cent, and a 3 per cent increase in the tax on financial institutions, from 7 per cent to 10 per cent.

Allen said the tax-coupled with a restoration of the property and city income tax credits abolished last year — would mean a \$6 annual reduction in income taxes for a family of four that had a \$6,000 annual income. That same family, with an \$8,000 income, would pay some \$9.80 a year more. If the income were \$20,000, the increase would total some \$125.84 a year.

Corporations would not, how-

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 7)

Budget Details On Page 18

For complete details on various sections of Gov. Milliken's budget—including education, welfare and natural resources—see pictures and stories on page 18.

DARTFORD, England (AP) — Dad got mad at his 16-year-old son's string of traffic charges so he drove the boy's car to the local quarry and warmed up a 20-ton bulldozer.

Three minutes later, the old sedan the boy had bought for \$9.60 was a heap of mangled metal.

Father, a 55-year-old quarry worker, had bulldozed the car flat and pushed it into the pit.

"It was the best thing I could ever have done," he said.

The story came out Wednesday in Juvenile Court, where the youth was fined \$38.40 for six motoring offenses, including driving while under age. Names were withheld under court rules.

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 7)

Father Arrested On Return From Switzerland Ski Trip

Berrien sheriff's deputies arrested James D. Whitcomb, 31, of 499 Upton drive, St. Joseph, last night on a writ of attachment from Berrien circuit court. The writ claims he is \$5,408.38 in arrears of child support.

The writ authorizing Whitcomb's arrest was signed by Judge Julian Hughes and obtained by Friend of the Court John Schoenhals because Whitcomb allegedly violated a probation to Schoenhals by failing to pay \$45 weekly child support and \$10 weekly on

arrearage for three children of a prior marriage.

Arrest of men who allegedly violate probation is customary, Schoenhals said. Whitcomb, according to sheriff's records, is a truck driver for Valley Concrete, Inc., of Benton Harbor.

Deputy Michael Devine said the arrest was made on Whitcomb's return from a ski trip to Switzerland.

OH, THEIR ACHING JAWS!

LANSING (AP) — The speaker of the Michigan House said Wednesday he may ask the chamber's policy committee to reinstate a controversial membership dental insurance plan that had been cancelled only hours earlier.

House Speaker William A. Ryan, D-Detroit, said the action might be sought to challenge

implications of a suit filed by one member against the full 109-member House and the carriers of the \$30,200-a-year, two-year contract.

Ryan's move, coupled with impromptu remarks and reactions from other legislators, appeared to amount to informal rebuff and censure of Rep. Jim Brown, R-Okemos, who filed for

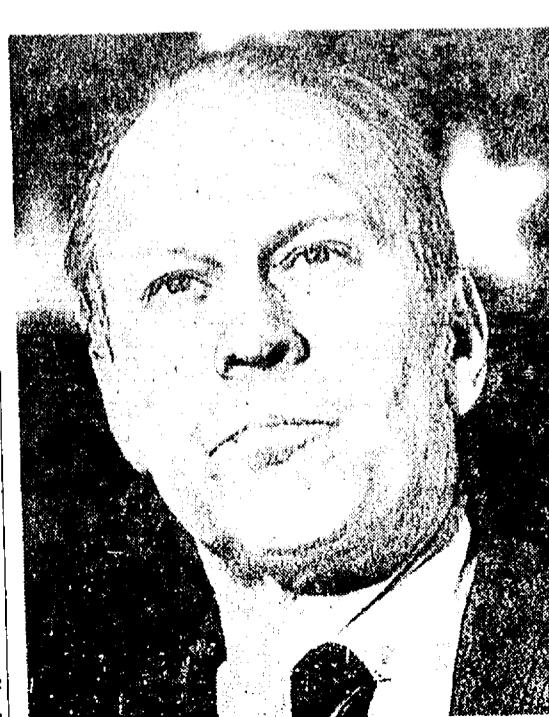
an injunction Tuesday morning serve the intricacy of the House.

"I would question the wisdom of any legislator taking a legislative matter to the judicial branch except as a last recourse," Ryan said.

"In my opinion, this was an extremely hasty action. It will be necessary for us to handle this in a manner that will pre-

vent the house policy committee for having made the difficult decision" to cancel the tax-supported contract under which Delta Dental Plan of Michigan was to have provided as much as \$600 free treatment annually to representatives, house staff and

Kard Kornet, St. Joe open Feb. 12 & 13 eves 'til 9. Adv. (See back page, sec. 1, col. 8)



NOT ALL REPORTED: House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan failed to report \$11,500 in campaign contributions last fall. (AP Wirephoto)



'Sister Fuzz' Is No Slouch With A Gun

By ROY MALONE

PONTOON BEACH, Ill. (AP) — She carries a .38-caliber revolver, handcuffs and wears a badge. But on her collar is a crucifix and on her head a nun's veil.

She's Sister Mary Cornelius, special officer for the Pontoon Beach Police Department. To many teen-agers in this small community 10 miles east of St. Louis she's "Sister Fuzz."

The 45-year-old Roman Catholic nun decided a year ago the best way she could help youthful offenders was to become an officer of the law.

Superiors of the Sisters of Divine Providence told her to go ahead, as an assignment of the order, but she was advised to "keep a level head."

It all started when the nun, then a teacher at St. Elizabeth's School in nearby Granite City, Ill., was severely beaten on a hospital parking lot by youthful robbers.

"The kids must have been drug addicts looking for money to feed their habit," she said.

Her interest in law enforcement led her to Pontoon Beach, a fast-growing town of 2,448. Capt. Rosewell Bennett signed her on as a full-time volunteer juvenile officer.

"He stopped," she said. "Actually I wouldn't have shot him. I'd catch him some other time."

A native of Wisconsin, Sister Cornelius grew up in Chillicothe, Ohio. During a six-year term of service as a nurse with the Air Force, she learned how to use a revolver and attained the rank of major. She suffered a leg wound in a combat zone during the Korean War.

Returning to civilian life, she said she did a lot of traveling and eventually decided on the religious life, taking her training at Mother House, Normandy, Mo., a St. Louis suburb.

"If God wants you for some particular thing in life, you do

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

Tonight — T.G.I.F. Carol 4:30-9 p.m. Captain's Table. Adv.

Kard Kornet, St. Joe open Feb. 12 & 13 eves 'til 9. Adv.

Not listed on Ford's report to

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THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1971

BH MAKES DECISION MONDAY

Important Fire, Police Services May Be Cut

EDITOR'S NOTE: The City of Benton Harbor bears a huge burden in public safety — more than \$1 million for police and fire protection. The expense is dictated by a high crime rate and much substandard housing. St. Joseph spends about half as much on its police and fire departments and St. Joseph's tax base is \$81 million — \$14 million more than Benton Harbor's. This article presents some of the services rendered by Benton Harbor police and fire departments and the impact of possible cutbacks.

By JIM SHANAHAN
BH City Editor

A boy remembered a lesson taught by Benton Harbor firemen who visited his school during Fire Prevention Week:

"Plan an escape route in case of fire."

When fire broke out in their apartment, he awoke his brother and two sisters and the children climbed down a trellis to safety from the second floor.

The boy has been recommended for an award by the Hartford Insurance Co., said Fire Chief Harold Gaddie.

It's 12:45 on a snowy night, A Benton Harbor man believes he's having a stroke.

Physician Returns To Twin Cities

Alfred R. Watts, M.D., announced today he has opened his general practice office in the Family Clinic, 2821 South State street, St. Joseph, returning to the Twin Cities after two decades in California.

A native of Benton Harbor, Dr. Watts, 47, took his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Indiana. He graduated from medical school at Marquette university. Following internship at Milwaukee hospital, Milwaukee, he moved to California.

For eight years Dr. Watts was on the medical staff at Queen of Angels hospital in Los Angeles and for six years on the staff of Beverly Community hospital, Montebello, Calif.

After spending 20 years in California, Dr. Watts decided to return to Michigan and his



DR. ALFRED R. WATTS

home town area. He said simply: "I missed the Midwest and it's getting too crowded in California."

Dr. Watts had one son who was killed in the armed forces in Viet Nam. Two daughters currently are enrolled at Marquette university.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Watts, Sr., Dr. Watts attended St. John's school in Benton Harbor.

His office telephone is 983-0353 and his temporary residence telephone number is 983-5280.

Man Admits Probation Violation

A 27-year-old Benton Harborite was convicted on his own plea Wednesday on a charge of violating a three-year probation set in 1968 for an assault with a dangerous weapon.

Jerry D. Jackson, of 1020 Buss avenue, pleaded guilty before Judge Chester J. Byrns of Berrien circuit court to charges of failing to maintain employment and absconding from supervision. The judge ordered his probation revoked and Jackson was jailed for sentencing later.

Jackson also has stood mute in circuit court to a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm against a Benton Harbor woman in the city last Dec. 8.

BOOSTERS MEET

LAWRENCE — The Tiger Boosters will meet for their regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Feb. 17 in the social science room in the high school.

F&M Bank Reports All-Time High Earnings During 1970

Despite a general business downturn, the year 1970 was one of the best ever in the history of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Benton Harbor.

Earnings reached an all-time high, according to a statement in the bank's annual report signed by J. Ken Keefer, chairman of the board, and Richard E. Willard, president.

Net operating profits of \$559,559 represented \$3.73 per share, compared with \$2.98 per share earned in 1969.

Year-end deposits were up 6.7 per cent from 1969; from \$51,809,693 to \$55,262,209. Dividends paid per share were \$1.20 in 1970, up 20 per cent from the \$1 paid in 1969.

Total assets of the bank increased from \$57,836,194 in 1969 to \$61,886,436 at year's end, 1970.

Book value of a share of the

bank's stock also rose, by 10.5 per cent; from \$25.35 to \$28.03. And so did the account for capital, surplus and undivided profits; from \$3,802,789 to \$4,204,683, or another 10.5 percent jump.

The figures are adjusted for a 50 per cent stock dividend declared by shareholders last June.

Commercial loans jumped by 6.6 per cent, from \$28,953,405 to \$30,856,130. U.S. bond holdings dropped 22 per cent, from \$10,459,887 to \$8,175,417. Other bonds held by the increased by 35 per cent, from \$6,352,534 to \$8,575,577.

Keefer and Willard emphasized in their year-end statement to shareholders that "In keeping with your bank's philosophy, adequate reserves of cash and U.S. Government Securities are maintained to meet our customers' varying requirements for

loans and funds on deposits. At year end, cash and government securities equaled 31.3 percent of the bank's total deposits, providing a comfortable liquidity to meet any requirements."

The municipal bond portfolio (tax exempt securities) was up \$2,223,043, or 35 per cent over last year-end, with all bonds having high quality ratings."

NEW BRANCH

Willard and Keefer called attention to the fact that the bank opened a new branch in temporary quarters in south St. Joseph.

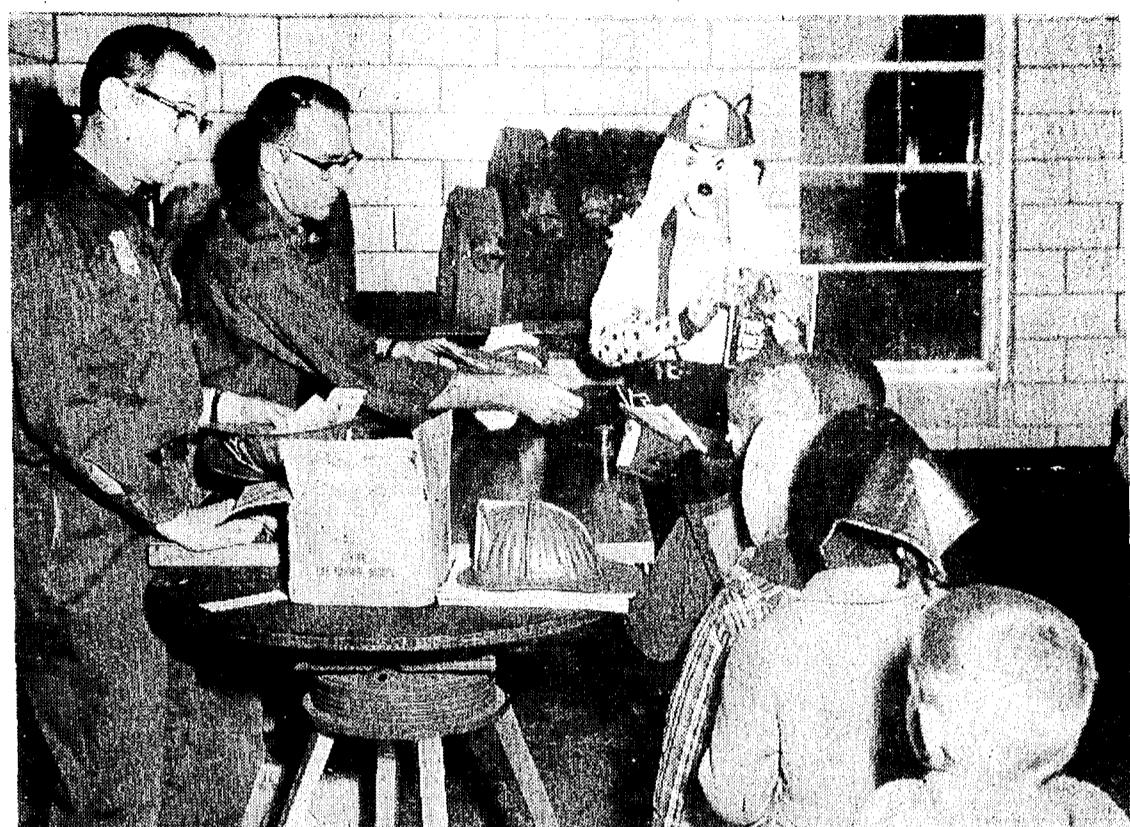
"The public's acceptance of this new branch has been most gratifying," they said, "and plans to construct a permanent facility are proceeding, with completion scheduled for late summer."

The F. and M.'s main offices are on East Main street in Benton Harbor. There are drive-in offices in downtown Benton Harbor and on Red Arrow highway near the Benton Harbor fruit market, as well as other branches at Fairplain Plaza and Stevensville.

DIRECTOR RESIGNS

The annual report included the first public announcement that Carl Steimle, retired Sodas food processor and marketer, has submitted his resignation as director of the bank, effective this month. Steimle, long one of the most prominent of Michigan's food industry executives, had been an F. and M. director since 1945.

At present, directors of the bank, in addition to Chairman Keefer and President Willard, are W. J. Banyon, Vere Beckwith, A. Edward Brown, Joseph D'Astofino, William C. Gast, Leon P. Gideon, R. L. Gilmore, D. H. Ross and John G. Yerington.



LIFE-SAVING MATERIALS: The hats are fun and the literature distributed by Benton Harbor firemen and "Sparky" can save lives. Visits by chil-

dren to fire stations and firemen to schools make youngsters conscious of the dangers.

ELECTION MONDAY

City residents will vote Monday on a six-mill tax proposition that will provide pay raises for city employees and keep municipal work forces at current authorized strength. Defeat of the millage could mean layoffs in police and fire ranks because such departments as public works already have been cut to the bone by austerity, said City Manager Don Stewart.

The "horrendous" crime rate is four times the national average according to FBI reports. Chances of being murdered in Benton Harbor are five or six times greater than being killed in a traffic accident. Nationally, traffic is four times as lethal.

Fortunately, homicide was the only major crime category that didn't show an increase last year. It remained stable while burglary jumped 40 per cent to 816 cases, as reported to the FBI. Aggravated assaults rose 27 percent to 195.

Eight classes of crime from auto theft to rape increased 22 per cent to 2,940.

Chances of being arrested in Benton Harbor are pretty good — 2,864 last year for all types of crime. Police also wrote 2,579 traffic tickets and 14,586 parking tickets.

The Benton Harbor police department is authorized for 51

How Wages Compare Between SJ, BH

This chart compares current wages of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph municipal employees:

	STARTING	TOP	YEARS TO TOP
BH Police Patrolman	\$6,552	\$7,956	3½
SJ Police Patrolman	\$8,292.18	\$9,053.20	2
BH Fire Fighter	\$5,240	\$7,566	3½
SJ Fire Fighter	\$7,697.82	\$8,622.38	2
BH Public Works Laborer	\$2.25 hourly	\$2.73 hourly	3½
SJ Public Works Laborer	\$2.71 hourly	\$3.48	Based on merit in 6 steps

sworn personnel. Normal complement of the fire department is 39 men. There are currently five fire vacancies and one pending. These won't be filled unless the millage is approved or a cash windfall hits the city like money from Washington or Lansing.

"I don't believe that's coming in the immediate future," said City Manager Don Stewart. "We certainly can't count on it."

MORE HARDSHIPS

He noted, Lansing has its own financial troubles and in recent years the state seems to be taking more than it is giving. Various property tax exemptions deprive local government of revenue. State requirements for police training and withdrawal of matching funds imposes another financial hardship, Stewart said.

An arbitration panel has ordered the city to raise police men's wages 8 per cent July 1 and another 8 per cent Jan. 1, 1972. This amounts to 12 per cent the next fiscal year. The binding arbitration awards also include city-paid life and health insurance.

The city commission decided to extend these awards to all departments to follow tradition and avoid strikes among employees who haven't had a raise in two years. But the city's broke and pay hikes for all employees are left up to the voters.

By BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Berrien Intermediate school board here last night set March 17 as the date of a public hearing on petitions to transfer a portion of St. Joseph township from Benton Harbor to St. Joseph school district.

The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Lakeshore high school, probably in the gymnasium.

Petitioners said they seek the transfer because of student safety and "problems in the learning process" in Benton Harbor schools.

By law the Intermediate board is required to hold a hearing and deny or approve the transfer on or before March 20, Barkmeier said. Interested parties have 10 days after the

properties listed in the petitions while only 792 were required for the intermediate board to hear the request for transfer.

FILED REQUEST

The petitioners filed their request with Barkmeier on Jan. 19, claiming to bear signatures of more than 85 per cent of the resident property owners in the Benton Harbor section of the Benton Harbor school district.

Petitioners said they seek the transfer because of student safety and "problems in the learning process" in Benton Harbor schools.

Administrative assistant James Walton said a check showed 915 valid resident owner

intermediate decision to appeal to the state board of education. 35 ATTEND

About 35 persons, most of them from Fairplain, attended last night's Intermediate board meeting.

They broke into applause when Intermediate Trustee Adrian VanGinhoven said a power play appears to be going on at the state board of education and this may lead to dictatorial action at the state level.

Intermediate board activities are "window dressing" and local decisions are meaningless because the real deciders are the state board, he said.

Supt. Barkmeier also reported a committee from the state department of education that earlier called on Benton Harbor school district officials has indicated it will return to meet with residents of the Benton Harbor district.

Barkmeier said he will attempt today to learn the date of their return.

LARGE CROWD

At one point last night, Intermediate Vice Chairman Lawrence Peachev remarked the number of visitors was the largest he recalled for a routine session.

"Wait until next time, Lawrence," quipped one member of the audience, referring to the March 17 hearing.

Also last night the Intermediate board named committee members and heard tales of woe on finances.

The appeals court earlier overturned the conviction of Harry Heiss, about 45, and ordered a new trial in Berrien Circuit Court. Heiss was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 4 to 5-year prison term in 1969 on a charge of gross indecency with a teenage youth.

In ordering new trial recently, the appeals court labeled testimony by the youth at one point "highly prejudicial" and found it subject to appeals court review — even though not objected to at the time of trial.

The appeals court earlier overturned the conviction of Harry Heiss, about 45, and ordered a new trial in Berrien Circuit Court. Heiss was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 4 to 5-year prison term in 1969 on a charge of gross indecency with a teenage youth.

In his application for re-hearing on the appeals court decision, John Smolanka, assistant Berrien prosecutor, argued the lack of objection in trial was part of the defense's tactics and that the appeals court should follow the general rule of law not to review matters not objected to in trial.

Intermediate district educational tax dollars.

Also last night the Intermediate board:

• Voted to hire one secretary to replace one who has left and learned the data processing center has a key punch operator vacancy.

• Re-appointed Richard Daugherty and Harold Sauser, and named new members Stanley Macklin and Sam Gravits to the special education policy advisory committee that assists the Intermediate board with special education programs. There are four other members. All are local school district superintendents.

• Nominated Arlan VanGinhoven of Sawyer as member and two others, Peter Rudell of Berrien Springs and Mrs. Irene

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 6)

Re-Hearing Sought In Heiss Case

Roy Shoemaker has been named assistant general chairman of the 1971 United Community Fund campaign.

The appointment of Shoemaker to the campaign's second highest volunteer position was announced today by Stewart (Jack) Trefry, UCF campaign chairman.

Trefry filled the assistant campaign chairman's post last year before moving up to the general chairman's position for the 1971 drive.

VETERAN WORKER

Shoemaker, a credit service manager for Heath Co., is an experienced United Fund campaign volunteer. In 1970, he was group co-chairman for the giant Industrial division and also served as co-chairman of the division in the 1968 and 1969 campaigns.

He also is a member of the UCF board of directors and is a former member of the United Fund budget committee. Shoemaker also serves on the board of the Berrien County Red Cross, a United Fund agency.

Shoemaker is a native of Benton Harbor. He was graduated from Benton Harbor high school and Lake Michigan college, where he received the LMC Citizenship Award.

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At present, directors of the bank, in addition to Chairman Keefer and President Willard, are W. J. Banyon, Vere Beckwith, A. Edward Brown, Joseph D'Astofino, William C. Gast, Leon P. Gideon, R. L. Gilmore, D. H. Ross and John G. Yerington.

OFFERED FREE

Detailed information on Lincoln township departments, officers and services are available to the public in a newly printed township directory.

It is available free of charge at the township hall on St. Joseph avenue, according to Mrs. Bernice Tretheway, clerk.

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THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1971

Section
Two

Blossomtime Festival Gets Strong Support

By BILL RUSH
Staff Writer

"Blossomtime '71" showed its strength last night as about 200 people attended the area queens chairman dinner to help launch the nearly-canceled spring event.

At the after-dinner meeting in Benton Harbor's Ramada Inn, James Barricklow, co-chairman of the Central Queens committee of Blossomtime Inc., said:

"We have the backing of the southwestern Michigan area and we will put on one hell of a show."

"We came close to not having a festival this year when the board of directors canceled the event, but enough interested individuals raised funds to give us the encouragement to continue with 1971 activities."

Barricklow reported that 28 communities have given firm commitments to enter the festival contest and that at least two more are considering entrance. Thirty communities participated last year.

Robert Braamse, last year's president and central queens committee co-chairman this

year, said: "It is a thrill to be back and involved after feeling a month ago we might not have a contest."

'SHOWS STRENGTH'

"The public really came forward to support us and this shows the strength of people acting together."

Braamse gave credit to local businessmen, the agricultural industry and many individuals for helping to revive Blossomtime.

SCHEDULE SET

Mrs. Johnson said the area queens will arrive at the Ramada Inn at 8:45 the morning of April 19. They will spend the remainder of the day at a luncheon, in dress rehearsal and conclude with the evening contest. Judging will occur from the luncheon through the evening contest.

Mrs. Johnson reported that the committee has decided on a change of dress this year. The queens will not be allowed to wear hats or gloves during interviews, luncheons or tours.

She said that Orlon Samuels of WGN radio will be master of ceremonies of the final contest for the eighth consecutive year. The absolute deadline for a community to enter a queen will be April 13, she added.

Mrs. Mariluth Winters will again be in charge of the Blossomtime fashion show along with the Grand Flora ball.

Mrs. Winters said the theme for the fashion show this year will be "Blossomtime Spectacular." The fashions will be modeled by the queens and also by members of the fashion show committee.

"This will give us both an adult and teenage fashion show," Mrs. Winters explained.

THEME IS SET

Braamse said that the theme for floats this year is "Moments to Remember" and that communities will be allowed one theme per float.

Braamse also reported that Oldsmobile convertibles will not be available for the queens due to an earlier strike and because "the cars are just not available."

Major events for "Blossomtime '71" include: the Great Lakes hospital visit, April 27; the Key to the Cities tour, May 4-7; fashion show, May 5; proposed teenage dance, May 7; Blossomtime parade and Grand Flora ball, May 8.

The dates announced for local queen contests are: March 6, Dowagiac; March 12, Benton Harbor; March 19, St. Joseph; March 20, Sawyer and Coloma; March 22, Bridgeman; March 27, Bloomingdale, Buchanan, Eau Claire, Hartford, Lawrence, Mattawan and New Buffalo; March 30, Watervliet; April 2, Niles; April 3, Bangor, Berrien Springs, Cassopolis, Decatur, Edwardsburg, Galien, Lawton, South Haven, and Stevensville; April 5, Sodus.

No firm date has been received from Covert, Baroda or Gobles.

SIX POINTS

In brief, six points were discussed at the meeting called by Mrs. Bailey. They were as follows:

1. Keep Tri-CAP alive as it is organized now.

2. Commended Mrs. Helen Ford, director of Tri-CAP, for her work in reorganizing and

her sound leadership of Tri-CAP.

3. Urged all poor people to write their senators and representatives in support of Tri-CAP.

4. That a bus be hired to transport poor people to Washington, D. C., in an effort to show support for Tri-CAP.

5. The regional office of OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) has been remiss in not having qualified monitors sent to the local agency of Tri-CAP to assist it with its problems.

6. The three-county advisory board should stay intact even if Tri-CAP is not refunded.

Mrs. Bailey said she would like to thank the many people who came out in support of Tri-CAP, along with area merchants who donated food for a potluck supper held prior to the meeting. The meeting was held at 720 East Main street, Benton Harbor and took the place of the county advisory meetings regularly scheduled for Wednesday night.

Virgil May chaired the meeting and Mrs. Betty Clemons acted as hostess for the potluck supper.

A group of young singers ranging in age from 6 to 13, the Dudson Memorial choir, entertained.

Over 100 poor people were told last night at a special meeting that everything possible should be done to keep Tri-CAP operating locally as it is now organized.

Mrs. Georgia Bailey, director of the agency's Neighborhood Service system, said reports were presented by three directors of Tri-CAP representing Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. Reports were given by

Shannon Madison, Mrs. Octavia Hawkins and Paul Cohen.

TREE SALES

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Credit Union Moves To New Location

Lakeshore FFA Gives \$134 To Maple Grove

Co-chairmen Gary Hora and Pete Vergot were scheduled to turn over a check for \$134 from the Lakeshore chapter of the Future Farmers of America to the Maple Grove Center for young adults.

The FFA chapter raised the money selling Christmas trees. In the past three years the club has used the profits from the Christmas tree sale for a special club project and donated funds to the Berrien County Cancer Society and to the Charles Hill fund. Hill, Vietnam veteran who lost his legs in war action, was a member of the FFA when he was in Lakeshore High school.

Bob Geitz is president of the 60-man Lakeshore chapter.

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ASSESSOR'S SCHOOL: Van Buren township and municipal assessors went back to classes Wednesday in preparation for state-required testing in assessing. Among the 30 persons at the first session were, from left, Kenneth Judd of Lawrence; Gene Kays; Richard Bus of South Haven; Ray Camp;

Eddie Smith; and Royal Haefner. Kays is county equalization director; Camp is a field agent with the state tax commission; Smith is county treasurer; and Haefner is manager of the county's tax description office. (Staff photo)

IN TAX LAWS

Assessors Start Course

By STEVE McQUOWN
Paw Paw Bureau

LAWRENCE — Wednesday was the first day of school here for township and municipal assessors who are beginning a refresher course in tax laws.

"You can tell there is plenty of enthusiasm," said Gene Kays, Van Buren county's equalization director.

Kays and his department are coordinating the once-a-week classes that are scheduled to conclude March 31, after which the assessors will take a state-required test for certification as basic assessors.

About 30 persons attended the Wednesday afternoon session which was held, as will the others, at the intermediate school district here.

At the beginning of the session, Kays told the assessors that they must be certified by Dec. 31, and that "it doesn't look like we're going to get help from anyone so we will have to teach ourselves."

Later, Kays said that the assessors generally know the

fundamentals of assessing property, but could well be falling behind tax laws which constantly change.

In the end, Kays said, everyone should benefit from the school.

MORE UNIFORMITY

The assessors will have their certification and county taxpayers will probably see more uniformity of assessing rates.

"Uniformity is what we are striving for," Kays told the assessors.

He said the state tax commission and the public, throughout the state, has been "critical" of the lack of uniformity in assessing.

Kays said the school is sponsored by township and municipal assessors in the county in cooperation with the county board of commissioners and the equalization department.

He said the school has the cooperation of the state assessor's board and the state tax commission in the form of instructors and materials to be presented.

Paw Paw Lake Sewage Project Is Re-Rated

COLOMA — Consulting engineers for the \$11 million Paw Paw Lake area sewage treatment system reported last night that the project has been re-rated for grant qualification purposes by the state.

The rating on the sewage plant phase of the project was 154 out of 242, a sharp drop from last year's position on the list. The rating had been 64th.

The firm of Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May, in its letter, indicated that it did not believe the drop would affect possibilities of receiving state and federal grant aid monies this year.

According to the letter received by the planning commission overseeing development of the project, the ratings for aid on

the sewer line phase in the townships of Watervliet and Coloma were 24 and 25 on the qualification list, up over a previous rating.

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